

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01 NRC-05 SAS-02 /101 W
-----104715 160809Z /21

R 160410Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7769

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 1471

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, FJ

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SHIP VISITS TO FIJI

1. FIJI TIMES 16 AUGUST FRONT-PAGED ARTICLE ENTITLED
"N-SHIP WILL BE ALLOWED TO VISIT FIJI" WHICH QUOTES DFA
PERMANENT SECRETARY JIOJI KOTOBALAVU AS SAYING FIJI WILL
EVENTUALLY LIFT BAN ON VISITS BY NUCLEAR-POWERED VESSELS.
ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, JIOJI WAS ASKED WHETHER THE GOF HAD
RETRACTED PERMISSION GIVEN FOR THE BAINBRIDE TO VISIT SUVA
LAST MONTH. JIOJI REPORTEDLY SAID PERMISSION HAD BEEN
WITHHELD BECAUSE FIJI AND THE U.S. HAD YET TO COMPLETE A
"SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT" UNDER WHICH U.S. WOULD ACCEPT
LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES IN EVENT OF RADIATION LEAKAGE.
REPORT SAID THAT JIOJI ADDED GOF IS CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY
OF FIJI PEOPLE, AND PROCEDURES FOR BERTHING NUCLEAR-POWERED
SHIPS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADOPTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. GOF
WAS NEGOTATING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR INTRODUCTION
OF THESE PROCEDURES. JIOJI STATED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT FIJI
WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO MAINTAIN A BLANKET "NO" TO THE
ENTRY OF NUCLEAR-POWERED VESSELS.

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2. COMMENT: ARTICLE AS WITTEN GIVES APPEARANCE THAT
JIOJI DODGED QUESTION OF GOF WITHDRAWING ITS CLEARANCE FOR
THE BAINBRIDGE. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN RESULT OF REPORTER NOT
PRESSING QUESTION, OR JIOJI MAY SIMPLY HAVE ASKED THAT
QUESTION REMAIN UNANSWERED IN ORDER TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT.
IN ANY CASE, DESPITE CAVEATS RE "SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT"

AND BERTHING ARRANGEMENTS (I.E. HAVING ABILITY TO MONITOR ANY RADIATION LEAKAGE, SUBJECT WHICH JIOJI HAS STRESSED IN PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS), JIOJI HAS AT LEAST GONE ON PUBLIC RECORD AS STATING CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR-POWERED VISITS WOULD BE UNREALISTIC.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, FJ
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